

Rethink Discipline Regional Convening, Detroit  
**Youth Panelists and Sponsoring Organizations**  
6/29/17

**PANELISTS:**

**Daquann Harrison**  
**Sade Kennedy**  
**Deandra Myers**  
**Kara Speigne**



University of Michigan, Child and Adolescent Data Lab's Youth Advisory Board is comprised of youth from mostly the Washtenaw and Wayne County areas, who vary in age and experience with school discipline and justice system involvement.

Sponsor Contact:

Zainab Farhat, Youth Advisory Board Manager  
Child and Adolescent Data Lab  
University of Michigan School of Social Work

[zifarhat@umich.edu](mailto:zifarhat@umich.edu)

<https://ssw-datalab.org/>

**PANELIST: Atlantis Johnson**

Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (MCRUD) includes a variety of organizations including the CAHEC Prevention Program through the Detroit Wayne County Mental Health Authority. MCRUD is staffed at the Prevention Network.

Sponsor Contact:

Karra Thomas, CAHEC Prevention Program  
SUD Initiatives Prevention Manager  
Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority

[kthomas@dwmha.com](mailto:kthomas@dwmha.com)

<http://www.dwmha.com/programs-services/substance-use-disorders/>



**PANELIST: Kirsten Seidl**

The Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI) is a partnership between the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The program was created to improve outcomes for youths transitioning from foster care to adulthood. It brings together community members, public and private agencies, and resources that are critical to enhancing the success of young adults who are transitioning or have transitioned from the foster care system.

Sponsor Contact:

Marla Garmo,  
Macomb MYOI

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[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/myoi-factsheet\\_311521\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/myoi-factsheet_311521_7.pdf)



**PANELISTS:**

**Yasmine Badillo, Check and Connect**

**Max McNally, Youth Action Michigan**

The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan (SAC) provides education advocacy and support, education mentoring, dropout prevention and family support with a focus on economically disadvantaged youth, youth in foster care or a homeless situation, students with mental illness, youth impacted by school discipline and zero tolerance, and youth facing barriers to enrolling in or attending school. SAC's Youth Action Michigan is a student-led, youth organizing, social justice initiative that builds self and collective power to create positive change in schools and communities with the support of caring adult allies. The current focus is to address school pushout and the school-to-prison pipeline in collaboration with the national Dignity In Schools Campaign.

Sponsor Contacts:

Kristina Cosgrove, Check and Connect Mentor

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Student Advocacy Center of Michigan

<http://www.studentadvocacycenter.org/check-and-connect>

<http://www.studentadvocacycenter.org/programs/youthactionmichigan/>



Panel Facilitator: Michigan's Children

*Michigan's Children is the only statewide independent voice working to ensure that public policies are made in the best interest of children from cradle to career and their families. Our emphasis is on influencing public policies that ensure that the children and youth who face the most challenges have the supports they need to succeed in school and life. By working to reform public policy, we improve the odds for all children, and support the work of those who provide services that help individual children overcome the odds. We have been creating opportunities for young people to share their stories, concerns and suggestions directly with policymakers since 1996, and continue to provide young people, families and the supporting professionals around them tools to help them advocate on their own behalf.*



*Public policy  
in the best interest  
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